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CURRENT LITERATURE.

The Entomophthoræ of the U. S.¹

Mr. Thaxter has undertaken a study of the entomogenous plants of North America, and presents his first contribution to the subject upon the group named in the title. The paper embodies not only his own observations, but those of American and European botanists. Of the former just three are cited, as against twenty of the latter. After preliminary remarks upon the sources of material and information, and the four other groups of entomogenous plants, the author proceeds to a consideration of the Entomophthoræ, of which three genera are found in this country—*Empusa*, *Massospora* and *Basidiobolus*. *Entomophthora* and *Triplosporium* are considered as sub-genera of *Empusa*. The morphology and life history of *Empusa* are thoroughly treated; the various species are described, and figured on exquisite lithograph plates. Twenty-six species are recognized, of which the following sixteen are new: *E. apiculata*, *papillata*, *Caroliniana*, *lageniformis*, *Lampyridarum*, *geometralis*, *occidentalis*, *dipterigena*, *virescens*, *Americana*, *montana*, *echinospora*, *sepulchralis*, *variabilis*, *rhizospora* and *gracilis*. Arthur's *Entomophthora Phytonomi* (Bot. Gaz., xi, 14) is referred to *Empusa sphærosperma*, and Bessey's *Entom. Calopteni* (*Am. Nat.*, xvii, 1280) to *Empusa Grylli*. The monograph is excellently done, and is worthy of the dress and company in which it appears. Botanists can help Mr. Thaxter by sending material to him at New Haven, Conn.

Contributions to American botany.²

Dr. Watson finds that our 33 North American species of *Vesicaria* are entitled to generic rank, and so he cuts a Gordian knot of difficulties by separating them from the Old World forms under the generic name *Lesquerella*. In this way, *Alyssum Lescurii* of Gray's Manual becomes *Lesquerella Lescurii*, which double honor is none too much for the veteran *Lesquereux* to carry. *Vesicaria Shortii* of the Manual becomes *L. globosa*. But most of our *Lesquerellas* are western and southwestern, and the specific names under *Vesicaria* are, for the most part, transferred to the new genus.

A revision of *Draba* is also given, showing 32 species, the only change among the eastern forms being the reduction of *D. arabisans* to a variety of *D. incana*.

In addition to these revisions, 27 species new to the United States are described, among which is a new genus of *Compositæ* (*Eupatoriaceæ*) from Florida, and described by Dr. Gray under the name *Hartwrightia*.

¹THAXTER, ROLAND.—The Entomophthoræ of the United States. Memoir of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. iv, No. vi, pp. 131-201, pl. xiv-xxi, 4to. Boston: Published by the Society, April, 1888.

²WATSON, SERENO.—Contributions to American Botany, XV. From the Proc. Am. Acad. xxiii, pp. 249-287. [Issued May 29, 1888.]

Among other interesting new plants are an *Ivesia* and a *Pyrus* from the Pacific coast, and a new *Tillandsia* from Florida.

The second section of the contribution contains descriptions of new species of Mexican plants, chiefly of Pringle's collection in the mountains of Chihuahua in 1887. There are 55 species described, and among them a new genus of Umbelliferae, *Prionosciadium*, starts out with three species, one of them being the *Angelica Mexicana* of Pringle's distribution.

The contribution closes with descriptions of eight new plants of Guatemala, one of which is the type of a new genus of Acanthaceae, *Lou-teridium* by name.

NOTES AND NEWS.

REV. THOMAS MORONG sailed for Buenos Ayres about the middle of July.

PROF. DUDLEY, of Cornell University, returns from his year abroad about the first of October.

MR. J. N. ROSE, of Wabash College, has been appointed one of Dr. Vasey's assistants at the Department of Agriculture.

MR. F. V. COVILLE, of Cornell University, has been appointed one of Dr. Vasey's assistants at the Department of Agriculture.

DR. DOUGLASS H. CAMPBELL and Dr. Winthrop E. Stone return from Germany in August with the honors of recent doctorates.

DR. W. TRELEASE is spending two months or so at the laboratory of Dr. Koch, in Berlin, carrying on special bacteriological studies.

MR. ERWIN F. SMITH will continue his investigations of "peach yellows" this summer in the orchards of Maryland and Delaware.

PROF. SUSAN M. HALLOWELL, of Wellesley College, having completed her studies in foreign laboratories, returns to America shortly.

ON ACCOUNT of the change to an earlier date for the meeting of the A. A. A. S. Prof. Arthur will not return from Europe in time to attend, but expects to be back by the first of September.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL at Cambridge this year is largely attended. With such a lecturer as Dr. Goodale, and such apparatus as is to be had at Harvard, all surrounded by the botanic garden, it is a wonder that the summer school is not overcrowded.

REV. DR. W. H. DALLINGER has resigned the principalship of Wesley College, at Sheffield, England, and will remove to London, where he intends to fit up a private laboratory and pursue his bacteriological and other studies free from interruption.

AN APPRECIATIVE SKETCH (with portrait) of Dr. Asa Gray, by James Britten, appears in the *Journal of Botany* (June). The portrait does him scant justice, and it is a fortunate thing that most foreign botanists do not have to depend upon it for their knowledge of his personal appearance.

ALTHOUGH several of our botanists are in Europe this summer, there are enough at home to make the Cleveland meeting a great success. The date of meeting has been fixed a week earlier, being August 15. Botanists should all arrange to attend, as personal acquaintance with their fellows is of incalculable benefit.